



## Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**File No. 331**

Senate Bill No. 279

*Senate, April 18, 2001*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FONFARA of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 7-421 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (e) Any municipal employee shall have the right to serve on any  
4 governmental body of the town in which [he] such employee resides  
5 except any body which has responsibility for direct supervision of such  
6 employee. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, no [such  
7 employee] municipal employee in the classified civil service shall serve  
8 on any of the following unless such employee is permitted to serve  
9 pursuant to the provisions of a municipal charter or home rule  
10 ordinance or serves because of membership on the legislative body of  
11 the municipality: (1) Any board of finance created pursuant to chapter  
12 106 or any special act or municipal charter; (2) any body exercising

13 zoning powers pursuant to chapter 124 or any special act or municipal  
14 charter; (3) any body exercising land use powers pursuant to chapter  
15 125a or any special act or municipal charter; (4) any body exercising  
16 planning powers pursuant to chapter 126 or any special act or  
17 municipal charter; or (5) any body regulating inland wetlands and  
18 watercourses pursuant to chapter 440 or any special act or municipal  
19 charter.

20       Sec. 2. Section 8-19 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

22       Any municipality may create by ordinance a planning commission,  
23 which shall consist of five members, who shall be electors of such  
24 municipality [holding no salaried municipal office] and whose terms  
25 of office and method of election or appointment shall be fixed in the  
26 ordinance. The chief executive officer of the municipality and the  
27 engineer thereof or Commissioner of Public Works, if any, shall also be  
28 members of the commission, without voting privileges. The terms of  
29 office shall be so arranged that the terms of not more than three  
30 members shall expire in any one year. Vacancies shall be filled by the  
31 commission for the unexpired portion of the term. Upon the adoption  
32 of this section by ordinance as herein provided, and the appointment  
33 or election of a commission thereunder, any planning commission in  
34 the municipality established under any previous act of the General  
35 Assembly shall cease to exist, and its books and records shall be turned  
36 over to the commission established under this section, provided all  
37 regulations promulgated by such planning commission prior to that  
38 time shall continue in full force and effect until modified, repealed or  
39 superseded in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The area  
40 of jurisdiction of a planning commission created by a town includes  
41 any city or borough therein without a legally constituted planning  
42 commission for all planning purposes except those specified in  
43 sections 8-24 and 8-29. Powers granted under said sections may be  
44 delegated by the legislative body of such city or borough to the

45 planning commission of the town in which such city or borough is  
46 situated. Any city or borough in which a planning commission has  
47 been previously established may, by ordinance, designate the  
48 commission established under this section in the town in which such  
49 city or borough is situated to be the planning commission of such city  
50 or borough, and such commission shall supersede the planning  
51 commission previously established in such city or borough. The  
52 commission shall elect a chairman and a secretary from its members,  
53 shall adopt rules for the transaction of business and shall keep a public  
54 record of its activities. The planning commission of each municipality  
55 shall file an annual report with the legislative body thereof.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Affected Agencies:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 279

***AN ACT CONCERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows municipal employees other than those in a town's classified civil service to serve on (1) a board of finance; (2) bodies exercising planning, zoning, or land use powers; and (3) bodies regulating inland wetlands and watercourses. Current law bans all municipal employees from serving on these boards unless (1) the town's charter or home rule ordinance allows it or (2) the employee serves on these boards because of his membership on the town's legislative body. The prohibition on service on a governmental body that directly supervises the employee still applies. The bill also removes the ban on salaried municipal officials' service on a planning commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 19      Nay 0